

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 are amended, claims 6 and 7 are canceled, and claims 12-21 are added. Reconsideration of the rejection in view of the remarks below is requested.

In the Office Action, claim 2 is rejected as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, due to the term "its". Applicants believe that the meaning of this term is clear in the context of the claims and would be readily understood and therefore meets the requirements of §112, second paragraph. However, in order to advance prosecution, the term "its" in claim 2 and the other claims in which it appears is changed to - - said - -. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected as being clearly anticipated by Lavoillotte, French patent 1,185,722, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 2-8 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lavoillotte further in view of U.S. Patent 3,993,346 to Mounts. Claims 9-11 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lavoillotte and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,457,527 to Lowery.

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of now canceled claims 6 and 7. Thus, the rejection will be argued with respect to the rejection of claim 7. Lavoillotte shows a container having a sliding door panel 2 and a swinging door panel 3 that is hinged to the container at hinges 7. The sliding door panel 2 slides in track 5. There is no apparent locking structure that secures the door panels with respect to each other. Mounts is directed to an upper hinged window 32 and a slidable lower window 33 that slides on side members 37 of the upper frame. The lower window 33 is secured in its raised position by brackets 65 that project from the lower window top bar 56 and engage elastic coupling member 66 on the top cross member 35 of the upper window frame. The elastic couplings 66 are an inverted T-

shape so that the heads may engage beneath the bracket 65 with the shanks of the T's extending through slots in the brackets, as described in col. 4, lines 3-13.

Claim 1 recites a container comprising a container structure having an internal storage compartment and an opening for accessing said storage compartment, a sliding panel and a pivoting panel operable to cover and uncover the opening. The pivoting panel is pivotable between a closed position covering a first portion of the opening and an open position. The sliding panel is slidable between a closed position covering a second portion of the opening adjacent the first portion and an intermediate open position disposed in lapped relation with the pivoting panel when the pivoting panel is in the closed position thereof so as to provide access to the compartment through the second portion. The sliding panel is pivotable, when in the intermediate open position thereof, together with the pivoting panel into a fully open position to provide access to both the first and second portions of the opening. A locking structure is constructed and arranged to releasably lock the sliding panel and the pivoting panel to one another when the sliding panel moves into the intermediate open position. The locking structure is further constructed and arranged to release the sliding panel and the pivoting panel from locking engagement with one another when the pivoting panel moves into the closed position.

Lavoillotte has no locking structure. In Mounts, the only locking structure are the brackets and elastic couplings, which merely hold the lower window 33 in raised position adjacent to the upper window 32. There is no locking structure that releases the sliding panel and pivoting panel from locking engagement with one another when the pivoting panel moves into the closed position. As this claim element is not present or even suggested by the applied prior art, claim 1 cannot be rendered obvious by Lavoillotte in view of Mounts. Thus, claim 1 is allowable.

Lowery was added to the rejection to claims 9-11 to show a telescoping handle pole.



Lowery does not remedy the deficiencies of Lavoillotte or Mounts.

Claims 2-5 and 8-11 are allowable for at least the above reasons and for additional features recited therein.

New claims 12 and 13 recite further details of the locking structure. In particular, claim 12 recites that the locking structure comprises a projecting structure on the sliding panel and an opening formed in the pivoting panel, wherein the projecting structure engages the opening when the sliding panel moves into the intermediate open position. Claim 13 recites that the locking structure further comprises a raised structure mounted on the container structure adjacent the opening, wherein the raised structure abuts and releases the projecting structure from the opening when the pivoting panel pivots into the closed position. None of the prior art discloses or suggest these features.

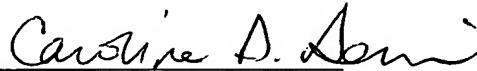
New claim 14 is directed to a container comprising a container structure having an internal storage compartment and an opening for accessing the storage compartment. A pivoting panel includes a pivoting panel member having an upper edge, a lower edge, and side edges. An upper arm structure is mounted to an upper edge of the pivoting panel member and a lower arm structure is mounted to a lower edge of the pivoting panel member. The pivoting panel is pivotally mounted to the container structure at one of the side edges so that the pivoting panel is pivotal between a closed position and an open position, wherein a lock receiving structure is formed on at least one of the upper and lower arm structures. A sliding panel includes a sliding panel member with an upper mounting member mounted to an upper edge of the sliding panel and a lower mounting member mounted to a lower edge of the sliding panel. The upper and lower mounting members are slidably mounted to the container structure so that the sliding panel is slidable between a closed position and an open position toward the pivotally mounted side edge of the pivoting panel member, wherein a locking structure is formed on at least one of the upper and lower mounting members and the

locking structure engages the lock receiving structure when the sliding panel is slid into the open position. None of the prior art discloses or suggests these features. Claim 14 and dependent claims 15-21 are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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